

**BEFORE THE**  
**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

Application of Sprint Communications           )  
Company, L.P. for Authority to                ) Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Discontinue Provision of Certain Wireline   )  
1+ Long Distance Message                    )  
Telecommunications Services and Related    )  
Features    )

Sprint Communications Company L.P. (“Sprint”) hereby seeks authorization, pursuant to South Carolina Code section 58-9-300, to discontinue its provision of wireline consumer long-distance services and associated features. The specific Sprint wireline consumer long-distance services and associated features being discontinued are Message Telecommunications Service (*i.e.*, 1+ long distance) (“MTS”), FÖNCARD, Directory Assistance, and Operator Service (collectively, the “Sprint Services”),<sup>1</sup> as well as all consumer pricing plans associated with the Sprint Services.<sup>2</sup>

Sprint<sup>3</sup> obtained authorization from this Commission to provide the Sprint Services on August 2, 1984, in Docket Number 84-10-C, Order No. 84-622. In response to changing market conditions, Sprint has decided to terminate its provision of the Sprint Services. At this time,

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<sup>1</sup> Sprint also will cease to provide its consumer outbound interstate and international services and features.

<sup>2</sup> Sprint is the Telecommunications Relay Service (“TRS”) contractor in some jurisdictions, including South Carolina. Under this arrangement, Sprint offers Sprint Casual Caller TRS interexchange service to TRS users who have not chosen a preferred interexchange carrier (“PIC”). Sprint is not seeking to discontinue Casual Caller service to TRS system users; rather, Sprint will continue to provide Casual Caller service to TRS system users in states where Sprint is the TRS service provider.

<sup>3</sup> The authority initially was granted to Sprint’s predecessor in interest, GTE Sprint Communications Corporation.

Sprint plans to discontinue its provision of the Sprint Services to its remaining customers effective September 19, 2015, or as soon thereafter as the necessary regulatory approvals are obtained. The proposed discontinuance will not result in material harm to the affected customers because they easily can obtain alternative services from other wireline interexchange carriers. Customers also may purchase substitute long-distance services and features from wireless carriers such as Sprint or from a host of other alternative providers such as interconnected voice over Internet protocol providers.

Sprint provides the following information in support of its application:

1. Name and Address of Carrier. Sprint Communications Company L.P. is located at 6200 Sprint Parkway, Overland Park, Kansas 66251.
2. Date of Planned Service Discontinuance. Sprint plans to discontinue its provision of the Sprint Services described above effective September 19, 2015, or as soon thereafter as approval in this case can be obtained.
3. Points of Geographic Areas of Service Affected. Sprint proposes to discontinue the provision of the Sprint Services throughout the State of South Carolina.<sup>4</sup>
4. Brief Description of Type of Service Affected. The Sprint Services affected by this discontinuance include all MTS, operator, FÖNCARD, and Directory Assistance services and features provided to Sprint consumers, with the exception of Casual Caller services provided to TRS users in states where Sprint holds the TRS service provider contract.<sup>5</sup>
5. Brief Description of the Dates and Methods of Notice to All Affected Customers.

Sprint provided written notice, by first class mail, to its affected subscribers between June 15,

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<sup>4</sup> In the interest of providing a complete picture to this Commission, Sprint also is planning to discontinue providing the Sprint Services in each of the United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

<sup>5</sup> See discussion *supra* at footnote 2.

2015 and June 19, 2015. A sample copy of the notice letter provided to customers is attached hereto as Attachment A. Sprint also provided notice to the Federal Communications Commission of its intentions, and, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 63.71, provided a copy of that notice to the governors and state commissions in each of states and territories. A copy of that notice is being sent to this Commission under separate cover.

6. Brief Description of Number of Customers Affected. The most recent information available to Sprint is that there are approximately 1,605 residential customers who are presubscribed to Sprint for the Sprint Services in South Carolina.<sup>6</sup>

7. Effect of Discontinuance. Sprint is not requesting by this application that the Commission cancel its certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide interexchange services granted in Docket Number 84-10-C by Order No. 84-622, or indeed any certificate held by Sprint. As set out above, Sprint will continue to offer other services and features following its discontinuance of the Sprint Services.

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<sup>6</sup> The present application only applies to residential customers. Analogous services will continue to be provided for the time being to business customers.

The public convenience and necessity will not be adversely affected by the discontinuance of the Sprint Services and features in question. All customers have been provided notice that affords them ample time to acquire one of the many substitute services that are readily available to them. Sprint, therefore, respectfully requests Commission approval of this Application, and that the Commission grant such other relief as is just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Sprint Communications Company L.P.

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Attorneys for Sprint

June 19, 2015



June 15, 2015

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## IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING DISCONTINUANCE OF SPRINT WIRELINE CONSUMER LONG DISTANCE SERVICES

### Account Number:

On September 19, 2015, or as soon thereafter as the necessary regulatory approvals can be obtained, Sprint Communications Company L.P. ("Sprint") will no longer provide Sprint wireline consumer long distance services and associated features in each of the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The specific Sprint wireline consumer long distance services and associated features being discontinued include all domestic and international 1+ dialing from pre-subscribed accounts and casual caller accounts, as well as Operator Services, Directory Assistance, Directory Assistance Calling, FÖNCARD and all consumer pricing plans associated with the services listed above.

Due to changing market conditions, Sprint has determined that it should discontinue the Sprint wireline consumer long distance services and associated features described above. This discontinuance impacts all of your Sprint 1+ dialed calls. If you choose to have a pre-subscribed long distance carrier, you will need to transition your service by September 19, 2015. **In order to do so, you will need to choose another long distance service provider.** Note that a new service provider may require approximately two weeks to provision service to you. **As a result, we strongly recommend that you select a provider within 60 days, no later than August 19, 2015.** If you are not certain of your options for obtaining replacement pre-subscribed long distance service, **you should contact your local telephone service provider and ask which carriers are accepting pre-subscribed customers.** Sprint will no longer carry any consumer wireline long-distance calls (both interstate and intrastate) after September 19, 2015. This discontinuance does not impact any Sprint wireless services that you have.

Sprint has notified the Federal Communications Commission and the Public Service Commission of South Carolina of its proposed discontinuance of service. The FCC will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service (or reduction or impairment) unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments as soon as possible, but no later than 15 days after the Commission releases public notice of the proposed discontinuance. You may file your comments electronically through the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System using the docket number established in the Commission's public notice for this proceeding, or you may address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, 445 12<sup>th</sup>

Discontinuance of Sprint Consumer Long Distance Services

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Street SW, Washington, DC 20554, and include in your comments a reference to the § 63.71 Application of Sprint Communications Company L.P.. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance (or reduction or impairment) upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.

We encourage you to select a new long distance provider, by contacting your local telephone company, as soon as possible. **Sprint does not have the ability to select another provider for you.**

For additional information please visit our web page, [www.sprint.com/landlineFAQs](http://www.sprint.com/landlineFAQs). If you have questions concerning this notice, please feel free to contact Sprint via email at [business.customer.care@sprint.com](mailto:business.customer.care@sprint.com), or via telephone at 844-492-4334 Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST. We thank you for your business and look forward to continuing to serve you in other capacities.

Sincerely,

Sprint Communications Company L.P.  
6200 Sprint Parkway  
Overland Park, Kansas 66251